

Lt. Governor John Garamendi Receives Briefing on Career Opportunities and Training Programs for Public Safety and Healthcare Workers in Orange County

SANTA ANA - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi joined Orange County community leaders for an informational briefing on Tuesday regarding career and technical education programs focused on public safety and healthcare. Recent reports have shown that California faces a shortage of nurses, public safety employees and other highly skilled workers. Briefing participants discussed the role of California's education system in training the labor force to fill these jobs.

□

“Our community colleges and our other institutions of higher learning must be prepared to answer the growing demand for public safety and healthcare employees,” said Garamendi. “The continued health of California's communities and economy depends on our ability to meet the state's workforce needs in these critical fields.”

At the briefing, Chancellor Edward Hernandez and other officials from the Rancho Santiago Community College District reported on the district's criminal justice and fire academies, as well as its nursing and allied health programs. Other speakers included Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido, Orange County Sheriff Mike Corona, and Dr. Wallace Walrod of the Orange County Business Council.

Garamendi has been touring higher education institutions throughout the state to gain information that will help him create new education and economic development initiatives to ensure that California's workforce is fully trained for future careers. In January, Garamendi launched a tour of the 23 campuses of the California State University system and other selected educational institutions. Since then he has held seven such events at campuses in Fresno, Bakersfield, San Bernardino, East Bay, Los Angeles, Pomona and San Luis Obispo. The next tour stop will be in September at Sacramento State University.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2007

Office: 916 / 445-8994